

COMMENTS AND CRITICISMS.

Problems of Reconstruction.—Now that the Report of the Empire Settlement Committee has been issued, the *United Empire Journal* urges the immediate creation of a Central Authority, representative both of the Overseas Dominions and the Mother Country, to deal with the whole problem of home and Colonial Settlement. From the eugenic point of view it is desirable that such a body should be in working order before the War is over, since it would afford openings—in forestry, for instance—for many of those disabled sailors and soldiers whom it is essential, both for their own and the national welfare, to re-establish in civil life in a position enabling them to marry and rear families. N. A.

Disabled Soldiers in Canada.—In a recently published Report of the Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labour, it is pointed out that in Canada insurance on the lives of soldiers is carried by various municipalities, and that the Government has undertaken as part of its military system the re-education of the disabled soldier in some suitable occupation which will enable him to resume, or take up, the responsibilities of family life.

Presumably, the re-education is given, as in France, before discharge, which obviates many of the difficulties attendant on our own system, in which it is given after discharge. N. A.

The Fight against Tuberculosis.—The last activity of the Y.M.C.A. is a Red Triangle Farm Colony, which is in the nature of a double experiment in that it provides agricultural and industrial training for disabled soldiers suffering from slight tubercular trouble. In cases of *accidental* tubercular affections such a colony must prove a distinctly eugenic agency, both in its individual and its national aspects. N. A.

Social Hygiene in War Time.—The Secretary of War for the United States has taken speedy and decisive steps to

protect the American Army, so far as possible, from the moral risks inevitably attendant on military life, and has called upon the State and local authorities for prompt and effective co-operation. The two main questions of alcohol and prostitution have been treated in very summary and drastic fashion. Strict regulations have been issued as to the sale of all forms of intoxicating liquors in or near military camps, and for the suppression of all houses of ill-fame, while the presence of individual prostitutes in such neighbourhoods constitutes a legal offence.

In this work the American Social Hygiene Association is taking a very active part, firstly, with the Commission on Training Camp Activities, which deals with the conditions of the camps and also with the provision of recreational facilities ; secondly, with the medical departments of the Army and Navy, which are seeking to provide adequate means for the diagnosis and treatment of the venereal infections ; and thirdly, with the Public Health Service, in the control of these infections in cities and communities accessible to the camps. Here the special work of the Association lies in the education of public opinion, and one may reasonably hope that, in the present awakening of the public conscience to its dangers and responsibilities, such a work will have enduring results.

One other vital point deserves mention. The Association has earned great credit for its excellent complementary work to the safeguarding of men, in organising all available forces for the moral protection of girls, in order to avert that wave of casual prostitution, born of war hysteria, which has been so regrettable a feature in our own country.

N. A.